

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9625

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBSSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2464

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, IT

SUBJECT: WALDHEIM VISIT TO ITALY

SUMMARY: DURING A BRIEF STOP IN ROME FEB. 9-10, UN SECRETARY

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GENERAL WALDHEIM MET WITH PRESIDENT LEONE, PRIME MINISTER

MORO AND FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR. THE CALL ON THE PRESIDENT WAS ESSENTIALLY PROTOCOLARY IN NATURE; THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S CONVERSATIONS WITH MORO AND RUMOR FOCUSED ON THE CONTROVERSY IN THE UN BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE MIDDLE EAST, CYPRUS, AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. END SUMMARY.

1. CONTROVERSY BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO A RESPONSIBLE MFA SOURCE, SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM ACKNOWLEDGED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE GROWING CONTROVERSY BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE IMPLICATIONS IT HAS FOR THE UN. WALDHEIM OPINED THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROBLEM LIES WITH BOTH SIDES AND URGED THAT INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES SEEK TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION THROUGH INCREASED BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE LDC'S. IN RESPONSE TO A ITALIAN POINT THAT THE CURRENT DRIFT COULD LEAD SOME INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, AS A RESULT OF INTERNAL POLITICAL PRESSURES, TO REDUCE THEIR SUPPORT FOR AND PARTICIPATION IN THE UN, WALDHEIM ARGUED THAT THIS WOULD BE HARMFUL TO THE INTERESTS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WHO WOULD PROBABLY SEE A RESULTING WORSENING OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE LDC'S. (OUR SOURCE STATED THAT THE EC MINISTERS MEETING IN DUBLIN LAST WEEK REACTED FAVORABLY TO WALDHEIM'S SUGGESTION ON IMPROVING CONSULTATIONS WITH LDC'S.) IN THIS CONNECTION, WALDHEIM MENTIONED TO THE ITALIANS THAT MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA EXPRESSED TO HIM LAST DECEMBER A READINESS TO REOPEN DISCUSSIONS ON THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND DUTIES. WALDHEIM IMPLICITLY SUGGESTED THAT THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WOULD BE BETTER OFF DEALING WITH A MODERATE SUCH AS RABASA THAN WITH MORE RADICAL LDC LEADERS.

2. CYPRUS. WHILE WALDHEIM'S DISCUSSIONS IN ROME ON THIS SUBJECT HAVE BEEN LARGELY OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS, OUR SOURCE FELT IT NOTEWORTHY THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE TOUGH TURKISH POSITION ON THE CYPRUS SITUATION DURING HIS TALKS WITH ITALIAN OFFICIALS. HE NOTED THAT THE GREEKS HAD INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE ON VIRTUALLY ALL IMPORTANT ISSUES, BUT IT WAS TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE WHICH BLOCKED PROGRESS. WALDHEIM INDICATED THAT HE WAS FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD A GREEK PROPOSAL THAT THE INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS BETWEEN DENKTASH AND CLERIDES BE MOVED TO NEW YORK

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WHERE THEY WOULD BE UNDER UN AEGIS. THE ITALIANS CAUTIONED WALDHEIM TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL MORE CAREFULLY SINCE IT WOULD, IN THEIR OPINION, OPEN THE SITUATION TO INTER-FERENCE BY OUTSIDE FORCES (READ SOVIETS).

3. THE MIDDLE EAST. WALDHEIM EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD RECONVENE BEFORE THE END OF APRIL REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MIDDLE

EAST VISIT. IF THE SECRETARY'S PRESENT AND FORTHCOMING TRIPS LEAD TO FURTHER AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE OPPOSING SIDES, WALDHEIM EXPECTS THE CONFERENCE TO RECONVENE TO PLACE ITS STAMP OF APPROVAL ON THE AGREEMENTS. IF THE SECRETARY FAILS, HE ANTICIPATES THE CONFERENCE TO MEET PRIOR TO THE TERMINATION OF THE UNEF MANDATE IN AN EFFORT TO AVERT A NEW OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES.

4. SOUTHEAST ASIA. ACCORDING TO WALDHEIM, ASIAN COMMUNIST SOURCES HAVE INFORMED HIM THAT THE PRG/NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES DO NOT INTEND TO LAUNCH A FULL SCALE OFFENSIVE IN SOUTH VIETNAM. RATHER, THEY PLAN TO PURSUE LOCALIZED ACTIONS WHICH PLACE STRAINS ON SAIGON'S RESOURCES AND POSITIONS. WALDHEIM SAID SAIGON'S ABILITY TO RESIST THE COMMUNIST PRESSURE WOULD DEPEND ON THE DEGREE OF CONTINUED AMERICAN AID AND THE WILL OF THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES AND THE MILITARY. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, WALDHEIM EVINced A MEASURE OF SYMPATHY FOR THE AMERICAN POSITION ON VIETNAM.

5. SOMEWHAT APOLOGETICALLY AND AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE, WALDHEIM RAISED HIS DECISION TO GRANT THE PRG OBSERVER STATUS AT GENEVA. HE JUSTIFIED HIS ACTION ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PRG ALREADY PARTICIPATES IN SOME UN ACTIVITIES AND BECAUSE OF ITS ROLE AS A PARTY TO THE PARIS ACCORDS. VOLPE

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